

# EXTENSION OF RANGE IN THE HORSESHOE BAT

By John L. McKean & A.L. Hertog.

## INTRODUCTION

The Diadem Horseshoe Bat *Hipposideros diadema* is a tropical species with a wide distribution ranging from the Asiatic mainland eastwards to the Solomon Islands (Hill, 1973). In this broad range there is extensive morphological variation and at least 18 subspecies occur. *H. diadema* was first discovered in the Northern Territory in 1969 when 13 specimens were collected by B.L. Bolton, D. Howe and S.A. Parker in Deaf Adder Gorge, Arnhem Land. A distinctive new subspecies *H.d. inornatus* was described from these specimens (McKean, 1970). Three specimens were collected by a CSIRO field party including McKean on November 16, 1972 at a water hole near Cannon Hill in Arnhem Land. In the absence of records from elsewhere, the N.T. form was then considered to be an endemic confined to Arnhem Land.

On the night of September 16, 1978, Hertog located a group of 15 *H. diadema* in a cave near Mt. Tolmer Falls (lat. 13° 13'S long. 130° 47'E). The cave measuring about 3.5m long, 6m wide and 3m high was situated in a sandstone cliff. The entrance to the cave was approximately 0.5m in diameter, and the cave microclimate could be described as hot and dry. The vegetation in the near vicinity is dense monsoon forest dominated by various palms. Vine and creepers are common and the canopy is almost closed. A small creek runs through the gorge and a large pool of water is situated about 150 metres from the cave. The discovery of this colony extends the known range of *H. diadema* 185 kms westwards. It would be desirable to search for the species in the Victoria River area and in the sandstone gorges of the Kimberleys that carry a relict 'rainforest' vegetation.

Of the 15 *H. diadema* in the cave, 10 had light grey brown pelage and 5 had bright orange pelage. Although not previously reported from the N.T. population this latter colour phase is known from most of the other subspecies. A colour photograph of one of the orange phase bats was taken and a black and white print has been used to illustrate this note.

## REFERENCES.

Hill, J.E. (1963) A Revision of the Genus *Hipposideros*, Bull. Brit. Museum (Nat. Hist.) 11 : 1 - 129.

McKean, John L. (1970) A new subspecies of the Horseshoe Bat, *Hipposideros diadema* from the Northern Territory, Australia, W.A. Nat. 11 : 138 - 140.

John L. McKean,  
CSIRO, Division of Wildlife Research  
P.O. Box 39998,  
WINNELLIE. N.T. 5789.

A.L. Hertog  
P.O. Box 39595,  
WINNELLIE. N.T. 5789.



The Diadem Horseshoe Bat (*Hipposideros diadema*).